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## WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH (FORMER)



23325 Wesley Ch Former 77  
Bell St Penshurst 0788



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### Location

77 Bell Street, PENSHURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0112

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 14, 2003

#### What is Significant?

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church is a small bluestone building in the picturesque gothic style, located on the south side of Bell Street, in the centre of the township of Penshurst. The former church has been converted into a residence, and although the interiors have not been inspected, it is presumed that they are much altered. The former Church was built in 1860, possibly by John Mason, architect, of Belfast (Port Fairy), who designed the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches there. The first resident minister was Rev. J. W. Tuckfield. It became a separate congregation in 1871 with Rev. T Adamson as its Superintendent. The church became redundant with the creation of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977 and has since been converted into a residence. The former church is in good condition, and the exterior retains a high degree of integrity (interiors have not been inspected).

#### How is it Significant?

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Penshurst

and the Southern Grampians Shire.

#### Why is it Significant?

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church is of historical significance as the focus for the Wesleyan Methodist denomination in the area for over 100 years. The church is of architectural significance for its naïve mixture of Gothic and Classical elements, such as the bellcote above the front gable and the three round arched windows along each side. It is of further architectural significance for the potential link to the architect, John Mason of Belfast (Port Fairy).

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates        | 1860,  |
| Heritage Act Categories   | Registered place,  |
| Hermes Number             | 23325  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Conditions

The building is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church is a small stone hall building. The style is a naïve mixture of Gothic and Classical elements, such as the bellcote above the front gable and the three round arched windows along each side. The glazing, or at least the glass, appears to have been altered in the twentieth century. The walls are laid in 12" courses of rockface bluestone with pointing. The roof is corrugated iron. The front porch has been altered superficially in the building's conversion to a residence.

## Historical Australian Themes

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.6.1 Worshipping together
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship

## Usage/Former Usage

Residential

## Integrity

High degree of integrity on exterior of building. Interiors not inspected/

## Physical Description 2

- Rev. J. W. Tuckfield, first resident minister
- Rev. H Baker, minister at time of the construction of the church

## Physical Description 3

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*